

Amendments to the Specification:

Kindly replace the paragraph beginning on page 9, line 4 (as numbered) with the following paragraph:

As embodied herein, and depicted in Figure 2, a chart showing a method for obtaining correct billing information is disclosed. Referring back to Figure 1, by way of example, an originating user attempts to establish a call from device 136 to a destination user at conventional telephone 164. Device ~~[[126]]~~ 136 transmits an INVITE message to proxy server 102. Since telephone 164 is not a SIP device, the INVITE message includes the telephone number of telephone 164 and not an URL. In step 202, SPS 102 challenges device 136 to authenticate itself by transmitting a random number. Device 136 employs the random number, its password, and username to calculate an authentication result using the MD5 hash algorithm and transmits the random number, the username (but not the password), and the result to SPS 102.

Kindly replace the paragraph beginning on page 9, line 14 (as numbered) with the following paragraph:

SPS 102 uses the username to find a matching password in a database, which may or may not be resident on server 102. SPS 102 performs the same calculation using the username and random number provided by client 136, and the password retrieved from the database. If the results match, the originating client at device ~~[[126]]~~ 136 is authenticated. Once client 136 is authenticated, SPS 102 uses the username and password to find the authentic originating client, e.g., the party responsible for bearing the cost of the call. SPS 102 searches a database to find the client billing tag that corresponds to the authentic originating client. In step 214, SPS 102

inserts the client billing tag into the call request message (INVITE) and subsequently transmits the message to gateway 106 via backbone 104.

Kindly replace the paragraph beginning on page 9, line 24 (as numbered) with the following paragraph:

At this point, gateway 106 attempts to establish a circuit switched call with telephone set 164 via switch 162. If gateway 106 is successful, an ACCEPT message is transmitted back to device 136, and the call is established. After the call is completed, gateway 106 transmits the client billing tag, the call length, and any other relevant call statistics to NMS 108. Obviously, if the authentication procedure of step 204 fails the call is not authorized to be completed. Likewise, if the client billing tag is not in the database, the call is not authorized to be completed, and the call request message is not passed onto gateway 106. One of ordinary skill in the art will recognize that the method [[of]] depicted in Figure 2 can be embodied as computer executable instructions disposed on any computer readable medium such as ROM, RAM, CD-ROM, hard drive or diskette. These instructions can be stored in the read-only memory (ROM) of SPS 102, or they can be stored as a network resource in some other location within network 100.

Kindly replace the paragraph beginning on page 10, line 6 (as numbered) with the following paragraph:

As embodied herein, and depicted in Figure 3, a chart showing a method for obtaining correct billing information is disclosed. Referring back to Figure 1, in this example, an originating client at device [[126]] 136 is attempting to establish a session with a destination user at device 148. Step 300 and 302 are identical to steps 200-206 depicted in Figure 2. In step 304,

SPS 102 evaluates the profile of destination user 148. For a SIP device, a profile typically includes the user's authentication user name, password, account data, and other information. In this context however, the important profile information relates to the call features that are enabled. The features include unconditional call forwarding, conditional call forwarding, find-me, call blocking, call screening, alias management, password change, and default address management. In this example, a call forwarding feature is enabled, directing SPS 102 to forward the call to telephone set 164.

Kindly replace the paragraph beginning on page 10, line 18 (as numbered) with the following paragraph:

In this case, since the destination user is requesting that a call be established with telephone set 164 via PSTN 160, the destination user should bear the cost of the call. SPS 102 obtains the user name and password associated with device 148 from the profile, and uses the username and password to find the authentic originating client, e.g., the party responsible for bearing the cost of the call. SPS 102 searches a database to find the client billing tag that corresponds to the authentic originating client. In step 310, SPS 102 inserts the client billing tag into the call request message (INVITE) and transmits the message to gateway 106, via backbone 104. At this point, gateway 106 attempts to establish a circuit switched call between client 136 and telephone set 164. If gateway 106 is successful, an ACCEPT message is transmitted back to device 126, and the call is established. After the call is completed, gateway 106 transmits the client billing tag, the call length, and any other relevant call statistics to NMS 108.

Kindly replace the paragraph beginning on page 11, line 15 (as numbered) with the following paragraph:

As embodied herein, and depicted in Figure 4, a chart showing a method for placing calls by a network gateway is disclosed. In Figure 4, steps 400 – 404 are substantially the same as steps 200 – 214 depicted in Figure 2. Unfortunately, these steps do not address the scenario wherein a fraudulent user attempts to contact the gateway directly, to thereby avoid bearing the cost of the call. Other measures are required to prevent this type of fraud. Thus, in step 406, SPS adds a security header to the INVITE message. The security header is used to identify SPS 102 as the server sending the INVITE message. In step 408, SPS 102 transmits a message containing both the INVITE request and the header to gateway 106. Gateway 106 is configured to look for the header before processing the call request. If gateway 106 cannot find the header, or if the header cannot be successfully read, gateway 106 does not attempt to complete the call. If gateway 106 can read the header, gateway 106 attempts to establish the call between client [[126]] 136 and telephone set 164. One of ordinary skill in the art will recognize that the method [[of]] depicted in Figure 4 can be embodied as computer executable instructions disposed on any computer readable medium such as ROM, RAM, a CD-ROM, a hard drive or a diskette. These instructions can be stored in the read-only memories of SPS 102 and gateway 106, or they can be stored as a network resource located within network 100.